

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 5, 12-13 and 15 are amended. As Claims 12-13 and 15 are amended merely to incorporate subject matter recited by base Claim 1 and any intervening claims, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Entry of Response Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner as the Amendment merely incorporates the subject matter recited in allowed base Claim 1 and any intervening claims into Claims 12-13 and 15; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to objections raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-11 Allowed

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 1 and 3-11 are allowed.

Claim 14 allowable

Applicants appreciate and acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claim 14, although objected to for being dependant on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten or amended to be in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 12-13 and 15 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Applicants have amended the claims responsive to the objection. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections, allowance of Claims 1 and 3-15, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Docket Number 021305-00199.**

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Amendment and Fee Transmittal